

In re Application of DOUCEUR et al.
Serial No. 09/354,970

REMARKS

The Office action has been carefully considered. The Office action rejected claims 1, 2, 10, 14-23, 27-31 and 40-44 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,938,723 to Hales II et al. ("Hales"). Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hales in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,822,584 Thompson et al. ("Thompson"). Claims 32-29 were allowed. Claims 3-9, 11-13, and 24-26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the subject matter recited in claims 32-29 and claims 3-9, 11-13, and 24-26 is allowable. By present amendment, claims 3 and 24 have been canceled; claims 1 and 21 have been amended; and new claims 45-47 have been added. The amendments were made to expedite allowance, not in view of the prior art.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 3, and claim 3 was canceled as duplicative. Claim 4 has been amended to be dependent upon claim 1. Thus, claim 1 and all of its dependent claims are patentable. Claim 21 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 24, and claim 24 was canceled as duplicative. Claim 25 was amended to be dependent on claim 21. Thus, claim 1 and all of its dependent claims are patentable.

New claim 45 has been added and includes the subject matter of allowable claim 11 and base claim 1. New claim 46 has been added and includes the subject

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matter of allowable claim 12 and base claim 1; new claim 47 has been added and includes the subject matter of allowable claim 13, intervening claim 12 and base claim 1.

For at least these reasons, applicants submit that all the claims recite subject matter that was indicated as being allowable. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested and timely allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

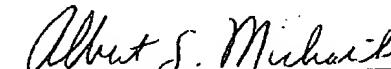
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 4-23 and 25-47 are patentable over the prior art of record, and that the application is good and proper form for allowance. A favorable action on the part of the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (425) 836-3030.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this Amendment, along with transmittal and facsimile cover sheet, are being transmitted by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.6(d) on the date shown below:

Date: July 27, 2004

Albert S. Michalik

Albert S. Michalik

1610 Amendment